

Amendments to Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include Figs. 1-11 for substitution with respect to all of the currently pending sheets of drawings. With respect to the previously submitted substitute sheets filed on May 26, 2009, Figures 1-17 have been cancelled and Figures 18-28 are renumbered as Figures 1-11, respectively, and the reference numbers within the drawings have been changed. Figs. 1-4 now correspond to Figs. 1-4 of great-grandparent priority Appln. Serial No. 09/088,527, except that the legends “Forward Communication Channel” and “Backward Communication Channel” are switched to correct those legends in conformance with the specification; Figures 5-11 now correspond to Figs. 1-6 of grandparent priority Appln. Serial No. 09/773,252.

REMARKS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 37, 39, 41, 44, and 47-71 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-36, 38, 40, 42-43 and 45-46 stand previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 37, 39, 41, 44, and 47-52 had been previously indicated as allowed in the Notice of Allowance dated December 29, 2010. Claims 37, 41, 44, and 47-52 have been amended in a manner that is not believed to affect their allowability. New claims 53-71 are added. No new matter has been added.

The Specification and Drawings

A substitute specification and replacement drawings are submitted to conform the application to the combination of the disclosures set forth in the priority applications: namely, grandparent Appln. Serial No. 09/773,252 filed on January 31, 2001 now U.S. Patent No. 6,542,481 and great-grandparent Appln. Serial No. 09/088,527 filed on June 1, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,388,999. Accordingly, the substitute specification is limited to the subject matter contained in the combination of the disclosures set forth in the grandparent and great-grandparent applications from which priority is claimed.

New Claims 53-71

New claims 53-71 are derived from Appln. Serial No. 10/767,326 with respect to which a Terminal Disclaimer had been filed to address a Provisional Double Patenting Rejection. Appln. Serial No. 10/767,326 has been abandoned without prejudice to present the subject matter of the claims provisionally rejected for double patenting in this case. In view of the prior Provisional Double Patenting Rejection, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 53-71 are properly included in this application.

A Notice of Allowance had issued with respect to Appln. Serial No. 10/767,326 dated December 16, 2010. New independent claims 53 and 62 correspond to allowed claims 46 and 54 of now abandoned Appln. Serial No. 10/767,326, with minor revisions. In view of the prior indication of the allowability of the claimed subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 53-71 are allowable.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephonic interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests consideration of the newly submitted Information Disclosure Statement, and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures